



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

June, 2014

REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 75 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Sunday, June 1st @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, June 7th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, June 8th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, June 14th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, June 15th @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, June 22nd @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, June 28th @ 9:30 am

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will present an “up close and personal” look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 8 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle – based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge. ***Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation.*** *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member. ***Please call (978) 465-5753; to register for this program.***

Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Friday, June 13th @ 10:00 am AND Wednesday, June 25th @ 9:00 am

There is no better way to see and experience the refuge’s salt marsh than from the cockpit of your own kayak! Join a couple of refuge rangers for a three hour meander through the marsh and learn

about some of its fascinating natural and cultural history. Program participants should have kayaking experience and need to provide their own kayak, paddle, and personal flotation device. Participant boats must be a minimum of 12 feet in length and have onboard flotation. It is recommended that participants provide their own insect repellent, sunscreen, water, snack food, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Meet the rangers at the refuge's boat ramp, opposite Lot 1, fifteen minutes prior to the program start time. Enrollment limited to 12 participants. **Preregistration required.**

Whip-poor-will Walk

Saturday, June 7 @ 7:30 pm

Have you ever heard a strange bird singing on the background soundtrack of a movie and wondered what it was? You may have been hearing the song of the whip-poor-will. Join Nancy Landry, refuge volunteer and avid birder, for an evening of listening for the distinctive song of the whip-poor-will (and for the songs of other nighttime birds, as well). Participants will meet at the visitor contact station at parking Lot 1 of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge at 7:30 pm. Dress appropriately for weather conditions. **Preregistration is required**; enrollment limited to 15 people.

NEW! – Refuge Bicycle Tours

Friday, June 6th @ 9:00 am; Thursday, June 12th @9:00 am; Wednesday, June 18th @9:00 am; AND Friday, June 27th @9:00 am

Experience the refuge from the unique perspective of your very own bicycle! Starting at the visitor contact station at Lot 1, the ranger-led group will gradually make its way south along the paved portion of the refuge's Wildlife Drive, stopping at various points along the way to view wildlife, hear stories of Plum Island's past, and learn about the inner workings of a national wildlife refuge. This is an "out and back" tour. The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a bicycle, helmet, and water bottle.** Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station. Participants may also wish to bring insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera (if these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station. Limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration required.**

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 14th at 1:30 pm in the visitor center auditorium

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

“Undercover with the Piping Plover” – Managing a Threatened Species

Monday, June 16th @ 9:00 am AND Friday, June 27th @ 9:00 am

The federally – threatened Atlantic coast piping plover nests and raises its young on Plum Island’s beaches from April through August. Join a refuge ranger for a chance to glimpse this native species in its wild habitat and to hear the story of how biologists work to conserve the plover under the Endangered Species Act. As conditions permit, participants will have an opportunity to view the plovers on the beach, from a safe distance, using a refuge-provided spotting scope. Participants are encouraged to bring a pair of binoculars, a spotting scope, and/or a camera. Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station at the refuge’s Lot 1. Program is appropriate for adults and older children. Each session is limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration is required.**

Tide Pool Discoveries

Friday, June 20th @ Noon

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on program. Appropriate for children age 5 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is 90 minutes long, allowing time for travel to and from the beach. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at lot **Parent/guardian must remain with his/her child for the entire duration of this program. Preregistration is required for this program.**

These Visitor Center Exhibits Change Monthly:

Artist of the Month Exhibit: Robert Murphy has been photographing nature – mostly birds and wildlife – for about ten years. The photos on display were taken in Florida, Nova Scotia, Montana, and, locally, in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. Included are moose, black bear, alligator, deer, and lots of birds – both native and exotic. While most prints are in color, there is a smattering of black and white landscapes in my portfolio. Mr. Murphy’s photos are documentary in nature, with very little in the way of image manipulation. He tries to make a realistic portrayal of what he sees, relying on the animals to provide the show. This exhibit is located in the auditorium.

Photographic Society Slide Show: Just inside the visitor center’s front door is a large video monitor that displays the latest nature and wildlife-themed slide show that was produced by members of the refuge’s very own photo club. A new slide show, set to music, and focusing on a unique them, is produced each month.